

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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UNCLAS HELSINKI 1579

FOR CU

E.O. 11652 : N/A
TAGS: OEXC, FI (NUMMINEN, JAAKKO)
SUBJECT: VOLUNTARY VISITOR: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

1. MR. JAAKKO NUMMINEN, SECRETARY GENERAL IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, AND THE MINISTRY'S HIGHEST RANKING CIVIL SERVANT, WILL BE VISITING THE U.S. FOR APPROXIMATELY TNE DAYS, DEPARTING FINLAND AUGUST 27. NUMMINEN HAS BEEN INVITED BY FINNISH-AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS IN THE U.S. TO PARTICIPATE IN BICENTENNIAL CEREMONIES. HE WILL TRAVEL TO CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA, WASHINGTON, D.C., AND WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA.

2. AT LEAST THREE OFFICIALS IN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION HAVE ASKED EMBASSY TO ASSIST IN MAKING APPOINTMENTS FOR NUMMINEN IN WASHINGTON. EMBOFF HAS ASKED NUMMINEN IF HE COULD SPEND ONE WEEK IN WASHINGTON FOLLOWING HIS SCHEDULED TOUR, BUT NUMMINEN UNABLE REMAIN IN U.S. FOR SPECIAL PROGRAMMING. THEREFORE, APPOINTMENTS CAN ONLY BE MADE FOR HIM DURING HIS SCHEDULED WASHINGTON VISIT. NUMMINEN ARRIVES BEFORE NOON, AUGUST 31 AND DEPARTS WASHINGTON SEPTEMBER 2. DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO SET UP FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS FOR NUMMINEN: (1) BRIEFINGS AT HEW ON HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE U.S. AND ON SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION AT THE SENIOR HIGH/COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEVEL; (2) BRIEFINGS AT NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES ON GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE AND RELATIONS WITH CULTURAL ACTIVITES IN U.S; AND (3) NUMMINEN HAS EXPRESSED WISH TO VISIT SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

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3. WASHINGTON SCHEDULE FOR NUMMINEN SHOULD BE COORDINATED WITH FINNISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. NUMMINEN HAS BEEN STUDYING ENGLISH, BUT HIS ABILITY IS STILL LIMITED. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT OFFER INTERPRETER; HOWEVER, FINNISH EMBASSY MAY VOLUNTEER THESE SERVICES.

4. BIODATA: JAAKKO MAURI NUMMINEN, BORN OCTOBER 22, 1928 IN VAASA; MARRIED; HOME ADDRESS: ALBERTINKATU 17A, 00120 HELSINKI 12; EDUCATION: MA UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI; PRESENT POSITION: SECRETARY GENERAL, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, (CHAIRMAN STATE CENTER OF EDUCATIONAL ALLOWANCES, CHAIRMAN COUNCIL FOR SCHOOL AFFAIRS, CHAIRMAN RURAL EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION); LANGUAGES: FINNISH, SWEDISH, GERMAN, AND SOME FRENCH; PUBLICATIONS INCLUDE BOOKS ON CULTURAL ADMINISTRATION IN FINLAND, PROVINCIAL PROVINCES, AND TOURISM IN FINLAND.

5. NUMMINEN IS TOP MAN IN IMPORTANT MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, NEXT TO THE MINISTER.
HE IS CURRENTLY DEEPLY INVOLVED IN ADMINISTERING COMPLICATED FINNISH EDUCATION SYSTEM AND HE IS ALSO MUCH INTERESTED IN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES. IN THE U.S., HE HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN "CULTURAL ADMINISTRATION, IT DIVISION AT FEDERAL AND STATE LEVELS AND IN PLANNING OF CULTURAL POLICY."
HE IS A MEMBER OF CENTER PARTY AND IS QUIET, PROBABLY TIMID.
HE HAS RARELY APPEARED AT EMBASSY FUNCTIONS, BUT PROBABLY BECAUSE OF HIS LIMITED ENGLISH. NUMMINEN WILL REMAIN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT OFFICIAL IN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION FOR PROBABLY ANOTHER 15 YEARS.
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